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Germany Is West's Worst Security Risk

Of all our allies, West Germany is the worst security risk. The Federal Republic has become the greatest single source for sensitive Western technology that seeps to the Kremlin.

For years my sources have been telling me that no country "leaked" as much militarily useful technology to the Soviets as West Germany. I was skeptical. But a recent Central Intelligence Agency report to the National Security Council is powerfully persuasive.

The report, plus two related CIA reports, all classified "secret," have been obtained by my associates Dale Van Atta and Michael Binstein. Because of the potential embarrassment to U.S. allies, they have also been stamped "Noform," a classification meaning "No Foreign Dissemination."

But I think the American people are entitled to know what the West Germans are doing.

The key portion of the CIA summary report is titled, "Documented Unauthorized High-Technology Diversion to the USSR." Between 1966 and mid-1982, the CIA reports, it was able to identify 261 "probable instances" of high-tech diversion to the Soviets and 232 "possible instances." That was from all sources.

Out of the total 493 possible and probable high-tech leaks, West Germany accounted for 243, or nearly half. This was almost three times as many leaks as the next-highest contender, Japan, which was blamed for 85 during the same period.

"West Germany is the leading target of illegal technology-transfer activities," the CIA report states. "Illegal trade and Soviet bloc espionage

operations are the main mechanisms for the diversion of strategic technology from West Germany to the [Soviet] bloc."

The CIA suggests that the West German government has made a mistake by focusing all its investigative energy on espionage. The CIA reports indicate that the Soviets obtain the vast majority of militarily useful items from crooked businessmen who have little to do with Soviet-bloc spies.

"According to one recent CIA study," the agency summary reports, "only 28 of some 650 intelligence reports of probable or possible trade-based diversion of advanced technology to Eastern Europe or the Soviet Union over the past 15 years mentioned any intelligence involvement."

As for the No. 2 leaker, Japan, with its 85 documented diversions of high-tech secrets to the Soviet Union between 1966 and 1982, one of the CIA reports states bluntly that the Soviets "view Japan as an easy collection target."

The report details these items the Soviets have concentrated on getting from Japan: microelectronics, machine tools, computers, telecommunications, automation devices and specialty steel. The report adds that the technology that has been transferred (mostly of non-U.S. origin, if that's any consolation) has enhanced the Soviets' ground-based weapons and its solid-state circuitry for missiles and aircraft.

The roll call of countries that have supplied secrets to the Kremlin—except for Switzerland, the historically neutral country which places No. 3—is a roster of friends. In fourth place is our old ally, France, and in fifth place is Austria.